

Anomalospiza imberbis imberbis. 1♀ (juv.), Lake Carumbo, Lunda, 25 Mar 1958. Previously known only from Huila and Moxico.

Quelea erythrops. 1♂, 1♀, Cacolo, Lunda. 31 Dec 1957. Not previously recorded from eastern Angola.

Nigrita fusconota fusconota. 1♂, 1♀, Dundo, Lunda. 21 Feb, 5 May 1958. Only one previous record, from northern Lunda (Traylor).

Ortygospiza locustella locustella. 1♂, Duque de Bragança, Malange, 3 Dec 1957; Cacolo, Lunda 20 Jan 1958. Traylor's 3 records from Lunda, Huila and Moxico may be added to the localities listed above.

Vidua funerea nigerrima. 2♂, Lake Carumbo, 19 and 25 Mar 1958; 1♂, Andrada, Lunda, 3 Apr 1958. Not previously recorded from eastern Angola.

Serinus capistratus capistratus. 1♂, Lake Carumbo, Lunda. 23 March 1958. Traylor's only records are from western Angola.

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Address: Dr. S. Dillon Ripley and G. M. Bond, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 20560, U.S.A.

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What in reality is *Anthreptes pujoli* Berlioz?

by C. Erard

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In 1958, Professor J. Berlioz described as type of a new species, *Anthreptes pujoli*, a male sunbird collected by R. Pujol on 16 Feb 1958 at Sereidou, Guinea: specimen No. 1958-544 in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. He emphasised its generally similar appearance to the female of *A. rectirostris tephrolaema*, and distinguished it by its yellowish superciliary and especially by narrow whitish tips to the wing coverts, principally the median ones. He did not consider that the specimen could be immature, by reason of the entirely black beak. He also emphasised that, judging at least from the material available, males of both nominate *rectirostris* and *r. tephrolaema* show signs of metallic feathering from an early age, and concluded that he was dealing with a male of a distinct species, near to *rectirostris*, which exhibited a female-like plumage and a characteristic wing pattern.

White (1963: 53) recognises the specific status of *pujoli*, placing it between *A. gabonicus* and *A. fraseri*; and likewise Rand (1967: 218), although between *A. pallidigaster* and *A. rectirostris*. Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1973: 570) cite it as following *A. rectirostris*, but express doubt as to its validity.

The type of *pujoli* has been re-examined. Its measurements (wing 57, bill (from skull) 15, tail 30, tarsus 14.5 mm) and proportions, its form and robustness of bill fall perfectly within the range of those of *A. r. rectirostris* and *A. r. tephrolaema*. The bill appears to be entirely black, but a closer examination shows that the base of the lower mandible, more precisely at the edge of the feathers of the chin, is orange horn.

In the collection of the Museum in Paris there is a specimen (No. 1876-2065), marked as a juvenile male, of *A. r. tephrolaema* from Lambarene, Gabon, collected by M. Marche. Although its preparation is unfortunately not perfect, it is very similar to, if not identical with, the specimen from Seredou, except for one metallic feather on the median coverts of the right wing. Also it has slightly less yellow underparts, more washed with greyish on the chest; but this, if not due to the antiquity of the specimen and its standard of preparation, is understandable, since *r. tephrolaema* has the underparts less yellow than in the nominate form.

On 17 March 1977, at Belinga, northeastern Gabon, I watched a family of *A. r. tephrolaema* containing two young which had recently left the nest and were being actively fed by the adults. The young had the underparts washed with yellow, more olivaceous on the chest, the upperparts olive-brown and non-metallic, a slight yellowish superciliary and some small pale spots on the wing coverts. Also, they had the beak entirely dark except for the extreme base of the lower mandible, and a tubercle on each side, orange-red.

Thus there does not appear to be any doubt but that *Anthreptes pujoli* is the young of *A. r. rectirostris*. It is very probable that this juvenile plumage with spotted wing coverts is worn only for a very short time after leaving the nest, as is the case in many forest species. One such example is *Bleda syndactyla multicolor* in Gabon, the young of which, as a nestling or fledgling, is entirely rufous, but of which none has ever been observed or captured alive in such plumage.

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Address: Dr. C. Erard, Laboratoire de Zoologie (Mammifères et Oiseaux), 55 Rue de Buffon, 75005 Paris—France.

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Post-mortem shrinkage of Dunlin *Calidris alpina* skins

by Julian G. Greenwood

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Avian taxonomists encounter difficulties when endeavouring to compare measurements of samples of live birds with those of museum specimens, one of the main difficulties being post-mortem shrinkage of museum skins. Estimates are available for the amount of shrinkage in skins, although the data show considerable variation between and within species. Vepsäläinen (1968) estimated wing shrinkage to be 2% in 11 skins of Lapwing *Vanellus*